



News

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NEWS RELEASE

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Utah's 3 Oldest Women Attend Party

SALT LAKE CITY -- Utah's three oldest known residents, all women, plan to attend today's 20th Annual Centenarians Day party for Utahns who are 100 or older. The fourth oldest person, a man, is vacationing in California.

Mrs. Rhea Barnett, 108, will come from West Jordan; Mrs. Ivy Brooks, 106, is a Salt Lake City resident; and Mrs. Irene Leishman, 105, lives in Bountiful. Dr. Russell B. Clark, 105, is the oldest known man. The oldest man attending is A.B. Blake, 104, from Logan.

Forty-four centenarians, including 37 women and seven men, plan to attend.

Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. and First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman and Lt. Gov. Gary R. Herbert and Mrs. Jeanette Herbert host the party that starts at 10:30 a.m. at the State Fairpark's Bonneville Building, 201 N. 1000 West.

Today's centenarians are older than the Empire State Building, bubble gum and Mickey Mouse. Significant events of 1906 when many were born include:

- The Battle Creek Corn Flake Co, which later became Kellogg's, was founded
- Mount Vesuvius erupted near Naples
- SOS was adopted as an international telegraphic distress signal for ships
- An earthquake destroyed much of San Francisco
- President Theodore Roosevelt became the first sitting U.S. President to visit another country when he checked Panama Canal construction
- The muffuletta sandwich was invented in New Orleans, LA

Utah has at least 155 centenarians, according to 2000 Census data, and 128 are known to Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services.

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